



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held January 16, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Director of Children and Family Services' recommendation to authorize the Director to submit a plan to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for use of the Services Outcome Improvement Project (SOIP) Augmentation funding upon receipt from CDSS of instructions for plan submission; authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to approve a request for appropriation adjustment to incorporate the \$20.3 million SOIP funding and \$2.5 million from increase in other State Allocations into the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Adopted Budget for a total increase in appropriation and revenue of \$22.8 million upon receipt of CDSS' approval of the County's spending plan, which will be used to fund 329 additional positions to reduce social worker caseloads and workloads, \$2.5 million to provide mentoring services for youth in out-of-home care, and \$9.5 million for miscellaneous one-time infrastructure costs associated with the additional staff and one-time program expansion costs; and approve interim ordinance authority for the following positions, using the additional \$22.8 million in State revenue: a) 69 Children's Social Worker and 22 Supervising Children's Social Worker positions, to reduce social work caseloads; and b) 141 Human Services Aide positions, 40 Adoptions Assistant positions, 34 Senior Typist Clerk positions, 21 Intermediate Clerk positions, and 2 Eligibility Worker II positions, to reduce social worker workloads; and authorize the Department to fill the referenced positions with temporary appointments pending determination of the appropriate pay classification by the Chief Administrative Officer upon CDSS approval of the County's spending plan.

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich:

“Through a wide range of comprehensive service delivery innovations, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has achieved marked success in protecting children, strengthening families and reducing the time children spend in foster care. In order to take this success even further, there is a growing need for skilled professionals to ensure that all services are offered and applied appropriately. However, there is currently a national shortage of educated and trained candidates available to be hired as new social workers to manage often complex DCFS cases.

“A portion of these State augmentation dollars provides us with the opportunity to reduce caseloads through additional staff. Human Services Aides will join the career path to social work by integrating into social work units to perform paraprofessional services, thus enabling case-carrying children’s social workers to spend more time with children and families. However, DCFS currently augments its workforce by hiring and assigning cases to children’s social worker trainees. We should ensure that trainees also have the opportunity for paraprofessional and on-the-job field experiences prior to assuming a caseload. We owe this benefit, both to our trainees and to the families they serve, to ensure that the momentum of improved child protection and strengthening of families continues in the right direction.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Adopted the Director of Children and Family Services’ attached recommendation; and
2. Instructed the Director of Children and Family Services, with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Personnel, to report back to the Board within 90 days with a plan for extended and enhanced training of children’s social workers trainees.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Children and Family Services
Director of Personnel